

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGUI 0542 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KHARTOUM
LAGOS NIAMEY PARIS TRIPOLI YAOUNDE DATED 16 APR 75
QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 0542

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CD, CT
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO CHADIAN COUP D'ETAT

REF: N'DJAMENA 0869

1. CAR REACTIONS TO APRIL 13 COUP IN N'DJAMENA HAVE BEEN
CURIOUS. NO WORD CONCERNING IT HAS BEEN MENTIONED ON LOCAL
RADIO OR TV. YET, THANKS TO RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL AND
RADIO CHAD MOST CENTRAL AFRICANS IN BANGUI ARE WELL AWARE OF
REGENTS NORTH OF THE BORDER, AND ARE FOLLOWING THEM WITH
INTENSE INTEREST. THIS INTEREST RANGES FROM GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS TO HOUSEBOYS.

2. OVER LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS GOCUR HAS INCREASED POLICE
PATROLS AT MAIN INTERSECTIONS AND IN AFRICAN AREAS OF
BANGUI AS WELL AS AUGMENTED GUARD OUTSIDE HOUSE OF
INTERIOR MINISTER ALAZOULA AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE
GON, OBSTENSIBLY AS PRECAUTION SUGGESTED BY CHADIAN COUP.
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IN BOKASSA'S ABSENCE DISSENSION IN HIGH GOVERNMENT CIRCLES

AS INCREASED AND BOTH ALAZOULA AND ON ARE AS USUAL AT ITS CENTER WHICH COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO ADDED PRECAUTIONS.

3. AT TIME OF COUP, BOKASSA WAS REPORTEDLY YACHTING IN THE ADRIATIC WITH HIS NEW ROMANIAN WIFE WHILE PM DOMITIEN, ACCOMPANIED BY JUSTICE AND LABOR MINISTER N'GAI-BOUETO AND COMMERCE MINISTER LAMINE, HAD GONE TO TAIPEI TO REPRESENT CAR IN FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR FORMER PRESIDENT CHIUNG. THIS LEAVES MINISTER OF TOURISM ANGE PATASSE AS ACTING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND HE IS CURRENTLY IN N'DELE WITH A VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION.

4. QUESTION EVERYONE IS ASKING IS WILL BOKASSA RETURN QUICKLY TO BANGUI IN LIGHT OF COUP IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. SINCE HE SELDOM ANNOUNCES HIS RETURN AHEAD OF TIME, AND NO ONE AVAILABLE TO US HAVE MORE THAN RUMORS AS TO HOW LONG HE PLANS TO BE AWAY, BOKASSA'S PLANS REMAIN UNKNOWN. LIKE BANGUI RADIO AND TV, BEHAVIOR OF TOP THREE RANKING VOCAR OFFICIALS APPEARS TO IGNORE COUP IN CHAD, BUT ALAZOULA AND GON WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS APPEAR MORE AWARE OF ITS POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS.

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